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## CITY'S GOAL

The City's goal is to gain compliance with all regulations and requirements through a cooperative approach between the City and the business community. The City is providing this information to you to help guide businesses to remain in compliance. We are also available to meet with business owners.

All of these Best Management Practices (BMPs) along with our programs in other parts of the community will help keep the bay and the ocean clean for all of us. For additional information about storm water pollution and prevention, or to report a violation, contact: **Imperial Beach's Department of Public Works Hotline (619)575-3745.**

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ALL EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS WHO WORK ON YOUR SITE.**

**Working together we can make a difference!**

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## City of Imperial Beach

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# STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

*Presented by  
Public Work Department*

The City of Imperial Beach is educating residents, guests, and businesses about how to control discharges of pollutants into our storm drain systems, San Diego Bay, Tijuana Estuary and River, Otay River and the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris, so anything that flows into the storm drain ends up in our rivers, ocean or bay. The construction industry is an important part of our economy and community. Oftentimes, the construction industry unknowingly contributes to storm water pollution by allowing paint, dirt, trash, building materials or liquid building materials to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain. These discharge not only pollute our environment but they are prohibited by law. These and other types of pollutants discharged to the rivers, ocean and bay and can lead to beach closures and additional regulatory requirements. Below are some recommended **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** for the construction industry that we need you to implement these practices on job sites, if you haven't done so already. If you have questions or need additional information sent to you, please contact **Environmental Division at (619)628-1370 or (619) 628-1370.**

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## EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Most construction firms have employee-training programs. These programs address such areas as health and safety training and fire protection. Training on storm water management and BMPs can be incorporated into these programs. Your employees can be trained by posters, employee meetings, courses, and bulletin boards. Bulletin boards containing messages about storm water management, potential contaminant sources, and prevention of contamination in surface water runoff are very helpful. An employee-training program should be an on-going, yearly process.



## EMPLOYEE TRAINING

The City highly recommends that all staging areas be located on the work site or other private property. In all cases, staging areas need to be protected to ensure that materials or any pollutants are contained within the area.



## DIRT/GRADING

Exposed dirt piles are not allowed in the “right-of-way” (street, parkway, gutter and sidewalk). If you must temporarily remove soil, make sure to leave it in a contained, covered area where it cannot be tracked onto the street. If permanently removing dirt, a disposal location must be found prior to excavation. Numerous commercial businesses, listed in the Yellow Pages, are available to handle disposal needs or purchase your clean soil. Vacant lots and lots under construction must be protected to ensure that all dirt remains on the lot under any weather or working condition. Tracking dirt off the site or dirt carried off the site from runoff will, in most cases, be considered a violation and subject to an enforcement action.



## TRASH/DEBRIS STORAGE

It is required that all trash and construction debris be kept in a containable area (i.e., dumpster) and in such a manner as to ensure that debris is not blown or washed from the containable area under all conditions.



## PAINT/STUCCO

Painting, concrete or stucco tools should never be rinsed out in the street or any area that might flow to the street. If you use a water-based paint, wash all paint brushes, pans, sprayer and other equipment in a sink connected to the sewer. Although we don’t recommend their use, oil-based paints and solvents can only be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection site. When you are ready to dispose of any hazardous waste, call the County of San Diego Hazardous Materials Management Division, at (619)338-2222 or (800)253-9933. They will refer you to a list of private companies that will dispose of your hazardous waste for a fee.



## BUILDING MATERIALS

Materials and equipment which require application and cleansing with water, such as grout, mortar, gypsum compound or dry wall mud, plaster or stucco, and concrete cannot be rinsed into the street/storm drain conveyance system.

## BUILDING MATERIALS (CONTINUED)

These materials and the equipment and tools used to apply these materials should be cleaned in such a manner so as to keep the runoff and residue on the construction site. Additionally, such materials as pipes, flooring, dry wall, wood, bricks, metal bracings, tarpaper, spackle, and asphalt should be covered when rain is expected. All chemicals should be stored either in an enclosed area or at least under cover when not in use.



## GROUNDWATER DEWATERING

More and more, the City is receiving requests to discharge groundwater from construction sites. In most cases, the City will not allow groundwater to be pumped into the City’s storm drain system. In those few cases in which we do allow this, the applicant will need to provide water sampling results, an adequate sediment box (if required), will be subject to inspection and responsible for any stoppages due to de-watering.



## SPILLS

If an accidental spill of any liquid material, building material or hazardous waste occurs, absorbents must be applied immediately to prevent the spill from entering the City’s street/storm drain conveyance system. When the spill is controlled and absorbed, the absorbent must be cleaned up and disposed of properly. Please have available at all times a spill kit including absorbents.



## INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The City is required to maintain an inspection and enforcement program to ensure that all businesses operating within the City are in compliance with the City of Imperial Beach’s Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30, regarding storm water run-off system discharge regulations and requirements, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board NPDES Order 2001-01. Violations of any of these requirements may lead to a civil penalty up to \$10,000 per day per violation.

